[24th November 1952

Non-caste Hindus as Executive Officers of Hindu temples.

* 116 *Q.*—SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many non-caste Hindus have been appointed as Executive Officers of Hindu temples in Malabar taken over by the Board; and

(*b*) whether there is any rule that only caste Hindus can be appointed as employees in temples in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" (*a*) & (*b*) None."

SRI A. APPU :—" Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to the Endowments Board to appoint non-caste Hindus also as executive officers if suitable candidates apply for the post? In fact, there is not even a non-caste Hindu peon now; if a non-caste Hindu applies, the application is rejected summarily."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member should not make a speech."

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" The draft rules relating to appointment of executive officers have been published for general information, and they are awaiting confirmation. Under these rules, the appointing authorities will be the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Area Committees. No provision has been made in the draft rules for the reservation of any post for members of any particular community."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating to abolish all the advisory committees regarding temple management in the districts? "

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" No, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government still follow this distinction of caste-Hindus and non-caste Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" No, Sir."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" దేవస్థానాలకు సంబంధించిన వివిధ సంస్థలలో హరిజనులను నియమించుటలేదని మాకు తెలుసు కాని మంత్రిగారు అది సరికాదంటున్నారు. దేముడే హరిజనులకు స్థానమివ్వవద్దనుచున్నాడా అని ప్రశ్నిస్తున్నాను ?"

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" There are trustees of temples who are Harijans. Members of the Harijan community are also members of Area Committees in the various districts."